

Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 071631 TOSEC 030189
ORIGIN PRS-01

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 PA-02 INR-07 NSC-05 USIE-00
CCO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 /031 R

DRAFTED BY S/PRS: JTRATTNER:LM
APPROVED BY S/PRS: JTRATTNER
S/S :LWMACFARLANE
-----010255Z 117707 /73

P 010150Z APR 77 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 071631 TOSEC 030189

FOR CARTER FROM S/PRS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS R.)

SUBJECT: TRAVELING PRESS SUMMARY, THURSDAY EVENING, 3/31

NO. 16

NEWSPAPER

LOS ANGELES TIMES

PAGE ONE FIRST LEAD STORY HEADLINED "RUSSIANS REJECT U.S.
ARMS PLANS"

OSWALD JOHNSTON FROM MOSCOW

LEAD: "THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION'S INITIAL BARGAINING
MISSION TO THE SOVIET UNION ENDED IN FAILURE WEDNESDAY, WITH
THE TWO-YEAR DEADLOCK ON STRATEGIC ARMS LIMITATIONS UN-
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 071631 TOSEC 030189

BROKEN. THE KREMLIN LEADERSHIP FLATLY REJECTED THE U.S.
ARMS PROPOSALS HANDED THEM ONLY THREE DAYS AGO."

OTHER POINTS:

-- VANCE TIRED, "DISAPPOINTED." HIS NEGOTIATING TEAM, WITH
NO DIRECT KNOWLEDGE OF PREVIOUS U.S.-SOVIET TALKS, HAD NOT
EXPECTED REJECTION.

-- TEAM HAD UNDERESTIMATED IMPACT OF ADMINISTRATION HUMAN

RIGHTS STATEMENTS.

-- VANCE SAYS HE WILL MEET GROMYKO IN MAY, ANNOUNCES ESTABLISHMENT OF WORKING GROUPS. "...HE ASSERTED THAT THIS CRUMB OF PROGRESS SHOWED U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS 'CONTINUE TO BE GOOD.'" IN REALITY, U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS "APPEAR TO BE AT LOWEST POINT SINCE POLICY OF DETENTE BEGAN..."

-- MOST HOPEFUL SIGN WAS SOVIET OFFICIAL AND PRESS SILENCE ON HUMAN RIGHTS AFTER MONDAY WARNING.

-- OUTLINE OF PROPOSALS, NEVER BEFORE FULLY MADE PUBLIC.

-- U.S. VIEW SEEMS TO BE THAT REJECTED PROPOSALS REMAIN ON TABLE, AND IT IS NOT UP TO U.S. TO COME UP WITH NEW ONES.

-- ONLY HOPEFUL SIGNS WERE AGREEMENT OF TWO SIDES TO MEET AND DISCUSS PROLIFERATION, AND ESTABLISHMENT OF WORKING GROUPS.

-- VANCE SAID HE WAS INFORMED USSR STILL INSISTED ON PLO PARTICIPATION IN GENEVA CONFERENCE.

WIRES

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 071631 TOSEC 030189

AP

KEN FREED FROM LONDON

LEAD: "SECSTATE VANCE SAID TODAY THE SOVIET UNION HAD TURNED DOWN A 'VERY FAIR PACKAGE' OF AMERICAN PROPOSALS TO REDUCE NUCLEAR WEAPONS."

OTHER POINTS:

-- IN MOSCOW, GROMYKO TOLD REPORTERS THE PROPOSALS WOULD HAVE GIVEN "'ONE-SIDED ADVANTAGES'" TO U.S.. HE EXPRESSED HOPE U.S. LEADERS WOULD ADOPT "'MORE REALISTIC POSITION.'"

-- GROMYKO PROVIDED POINT-BY-POINT REBUTTAL OF U.S. PROPOSALS.

-- VANCE PROVIDED ADDITIONAL COMMENT ON PROPOSALS IN BONN, AFTER 5-HOUR MEETING WITH SCHMIDT.

TO CHARACTERIZE CARTER STATEMENTS ON POSSIBLE WEAPONS DEVELOPMENT SPEEDUP AS A THREAT.

UPI

NICK DANILOFF FROM LONDON

LEAD: "SECSTATE VANCE AND EUROPEAN LEADERS THURSDAY SOUGHT TO TONE DOWN THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE SOVIET UNION'S FLAT REJECTION OF U.S. PROPOSALS TO LIMIT THE ARMS RACE."

OTHER POINTS:

-- VANCE SAID CARTER WOULD BE ""VERY RELUCTANT"" TO ACCELERATE U.S. WEAPONS DEVELOPMENT.

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 071631 TOSEC 030189

-- IN BONN AND LONDON, VANCE REPORTED ON ARMS TALKS "IMPASSE," PLANS TO DO SAME IN PARIS FRIDAY.

-- HE AGAIN EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT AT OUTCOME OF TALKS, BUT SAID WORK WOULD CONTINUE, MENTIONING MAY GROMYKO MEETING. SAID OBJECTIVE WAS NOT A SIMPLE ONE; ACHIEVING AGREEMENT OVERNIGHT IMPOSSIBLE.

-- SCHMIDT SUPPORTED VANCE'S VIEW, OBJECTED TO WORD "BREAKDOWN" IN DESCRIBING OUTCOME OF TALKS. SAID NEITHER US NOR USSR THOUGHT THIS WAS END OF ROAD.

-- BRIEF OUTLINE OF PROPOSALS.

-- BREZHNEV HAD REJECTED PLANS AS "INEQUITABLE;" GROMYKO SAID HE HOPED U.S. LEADERS WOULD TAKE MORE REALISTIC POSITION.

-- VANCE HAD DESCRIBED PLANS AS FAIR PACKAGE.

RADIO
EVENING NETWORK NEWS SHOWS

NBC -- JOHN CHANCELLOR AND RICHARD VALERIANI

CHANCELLOR: THE UNITED STATES SAID TODAY THAT THE AMERICAN PROPOSALS FOR NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT ARE EXTREMELY FAIR AND EQUITABLE. THE SOVIET UNION SAID TODAY THEY ARE

DOUBTFUL IF NOT TO SAY CHEAP. WITHIN 6 WEEKS, SECRETARY OF STATE VANCE AND FOREIGN MINISTER GROMYKO, WILL MEET TO TALK AGAIN AND THE WHITE HOUSE SAID TODAY THERE ARE NO PLANS TO CHANGE THE AMERICAN PROPOSALS NOW. A COMMUNIQUE WAS ISSUED ON THE MOSCOW TALKS WHICH ENDED YESTERDAY IN DEADLOCK AND THE COMMUNIQUE EMPHASIZED THE POSITIVE, BUT
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 05 STATE 071631 TOSEC 030189

DESPITE THAT THERE WAS VERY TOUGH TALK FROM THE RUSSIANS. RICHARD VALERIANI SUMS ALL THIS UP BEGINNING WITH THE AMERICAN GROUP LEAVING MOSCOW.

VALERIANI: IT WAS ALL SMILES, HANDSHAKES, AND PLEASANTRIES, AS GROMYKO SAW VANCE OFF AT THE AIRPORT. BUT GROMYKO'S MOOD WAS CONSIDERABLY DIFFERENT ONLY SIX HOURS LATER WHEN HE TOLD THE NEWS CONFERENCE THAT THE AMERICAN ARMS CONTROL PROPOSALS WERE DESIGNED TO GIVE THE UNITED STATES A ONE-SIDED MILITARY ADVANTAGE. HE ALSO COMPLAINED THAT THE DISPUTE OVER HUMAN RIGHTS HAD POISONED THE NEGOTIATING ATMOSPHERE. THIS WAS THE FIRST NEWS CONFERENCE GROMYKO HAD EVER HELD DURING HIS TWENTY YEARS IN OFFICE.

VANCE STOPPED OFF IN WEST GERMANY AFTER LEAVING MOSCOW AND HE ALSO HELD A NEWS CONFERENCE. EVEN PRIOR TO GROMYKO'S COMPLAINT HE WAS CHALLENGED TO JUSTIFY THE FAIRNESS OF THE AMERICAN PROPOSAL WHICH HE ARGUES STRUCK A FAIR BALANCE OF BIG MISSILES ON EACH SIDE.

-- VANCE: "IT ALSO TOOK INTO ACCOUNT THE CONCERNS
-- OF BOTH PARTIES WITH RESPECT TO THE TWO
-- OTHER ISSUES WHICH HAVE BEEN SO CONTROVERSIAL,
-- NAMELY THE QUESTION OF THE CRUISE MISSILE
-- AND THE BACKFIRE. IN EACH CASE IT REQUIRED
-- SOME GIVE AND TAKE ON THE PART OF THE OTHER
-- SIDE WITH RESPECT TO THESE TWO ITEMS AND I
-- THINK IT PROVIDED THAT, AND ON THE WHOLE
-- IT SEEMS IT WAS A VERY FAIR PACKAGE."

VALERIANI: TONIGHT VANCE CAME TO LONDON TO FILL IN BRITISH OFFICIALS. HE DECLINED TO COMMENT ON GROMYKO'S CHARGES UNTIL HE SEES THE FULL TEXT. BUT SOME OF HIS AIDES CONCEDED PRIVATELY THEY HAD NOT BEEN SURPRISED WHEN THE RUSSIANS REJECTED THE U.S. PROPOSALS AS TOO HARD-LINE. AT THIS POINT IT IS NOT CLEAR IF THE CARTER ADMIN-
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 06 STATE 071631 TOSEC 030189

ISTRATION IS TAKING SUCH A HARD LINE IN ORDER TO CONVINCE THE PENTAGON THAT IT CAN'T BE DONE. OR TO SHOW THE CONGRESS THAT THE ADMINISTRATION IS HANGING TOUGH, OR SIMPLY TO TEST THE RUSSIANS.

ABC -- HARRY REASONER AND BARRIE DUNSMORE

REASONER: HIS MISSION TO MOSCOW OVER, AND BY HIS ADMISSION NOT VERY FRUITFUL, SECRETARY OF STATE VANCE LEFT RUSSIA, STOPPED OVER IN BONN, AND FLEW ON TO LONDON TODAY. DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT BARRIE DUNSMORE TELLS US WHAT VANCE HAD TO SAY.

DUNSMORE: VANCE LEFT MOSCOW, HAVING FAILED TO ACHIEVE HIS OBJECTIVE BUT TAKING A POSITIVE VIEW.

-- VANCE: "OUR OBJECTIVE IS NOT A SIMPLE ONE.
-- REACHING AGREEMENT ON ARMS CONTROL MEASURES
-- IS SOMETHING WHICH CANNOT BE ACCOMPLISHED
-- OVERNIGHT".

DUNSMORE: WITH THAT, IT WAS OFF TO WESTERN EUROPE TO BRIEF THE ALLIES ON THE RESULTS OF THE TALKS. ON THE FLIGHT FROM MOSCOW, CORRESPONDENTS WERE TOLD THAT IN SPITE OF THE SOVIET REJECTION, THE ATMOSPHERE HAD BEEN AFFABLE, THAT EVEN AS THEY WERE SAYING NO, THE RUSSIANS WERE SAYING: DON'T BE GLOOMY, THERE IS STILL TIME FOR AN AGREEMENT. VANCE AND CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT HELD A NEWS CONFERENCE IN BONN, IN WHICH THE MESSAGE WAS : THE TALKS HAVE NOT BROKEN DOWN; THEY WILL GO ON--IN SIX WEEKS, IN FACT, IN GENEVA. IN LONDON, VANCE WENT TO 10 DOWNING STREET, TO SEE PRIME MINISTER CALLAGHAN, AND TOMORROW HE TRAVELS TO PARIS TO MEET WITH THE FRENCH. BUT MEANTIME, BACK IN MOSCOW, SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTER GROMYKO GAVE HIS FIRST NEWS CONFERENCE IN MOSCOW IN 20 YEARS. GROMYKO BLUNTLY SAID THAT THE SOVIETS HAD REJECTED THE U.S. PROPOSALS BECAUSE UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 07 STATE 071631 TOSEC 030189

THEY WERE ONE-SIDED, UNREAL, AND WOULD HAVE DAMAGED SOVIET SECURITY. HE DID, HOWEVER, SAY THAT THE SOVIETS WERE PREPARED TO CONTINUE TALKING.

REASONER: BARRIE DUNSMORE WAS IN MOSCOW WITH SECRETARY VANCE, AND HE'S IN LONDON NOW, AND WE TALKED TO HIM TODAY. BARRIE, IS MR GROMYKO RIGHT? IS THE UNITED STATES THE VILLAIN IN THIS CASE?

DUNSMORE: IT THINK IT'S FAIR TO SAY, HARRY THAT THE U.S. HAS TAKEN A PRETTY HARD LINE. FOR EXAMPLE, IN AREAS IN WHICH THE SOVIETS PRESENTLY HAVE AN ADVANTAGE -- IN THE AREA OF HEAVY MISSILES -- THEY WOULD LOSE MUCH OF THAT ADVANTAGE. ON THE OTHER HAND, IN THE AREAS IN WHICH THE U.S. HAS AN ADVANTAGE, SAY FOR EXAMPLE WITH THE CRUISE MISSILES OR WITH MULTIPLE WARHEADS, THEY WOULD BE ABLE TO KEEP MUCH OF IT. AND THEREFORE, FOR PEOPLE WHO WATCH

STRATEGIC ARMS LIMITATION VERY CLOSELY, IT WAS ABSOLUTELY NO SURPRISE THAT THE SOVIETS REJECTED THESE PROPOSALS.

REASONER: THE THING THAT KEEPS COMING UP AND GETTING DENIED, THE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE, DO YOU THINK IT HAD ANYTHING TO DO WITH THE RUSSIAN ATTITUDE?

DUNSMORE: WELL, GROMYKO SAID TODAY THAT IT POISONED THE ATMOSPHERE AND CERTAINLY EVERY SOVIET OFFICIAL THAT I

TALKED TO COMPLAINED BITTERLY ABOUT IT. ON THE OTHER HAND,
IN THIS PARTICULAR CASE, I THINK THE DEAL WOULD HAVE
BEEN REJECTED ANYWAY.

REASONER: NOW WHAT? IS THERE A REAL REASON FOR US TO BE
CONCERNED?

DUNSMORE: WELL, I DON'T THINK WE HAVE TO START HEADING FOR
THE SHELTERS YET, BUT THIS IS A SERIOUS SETBACK. ON THE
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 08 STATE 071631 TOSEC 030189

OTHER HAND, IT MIGHT BE NOTED THAT THIS IS THE FIRST
ENCOUNTER BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES, AND THERE SEEMED TO BE A
DESIRE TO PROVE -- ONE SIDE TO THE OTHER -- THAT THEY
COULD BE TOUGH. ONE OTHER POINT, HARRY. I HAD THE
FEELING THAT PRESIDENT CARTER BOTH PUZZLES AND PERHAPS
EVEN MAKES THE SOVIETS A LITTLE AFRAID OF HIM.

CBS -- WALTER CRONKITE AND BERNARD KALB

CRONKITE: THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOVIET UNION CLASHED
TODAY ON WHO'S RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SUPERPOWERS' FAILURE
TO REACH AN EARLY AGREEMENT ON THE NEW STRATEGIC ARMS
LIMITATION TREATY. SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTER GROMYKO SAID
IN AN EXTRAORDINARY MOSCOW NEWS CONFERENCE THAT IT WAS
THE UNITED STATES' FAULT. HE ACCUSED THE AMERICANS OF
PROMOTING, QUOTE, AN INTRINSICALLY FALSE VERSION OF WHAT
HAPPENED, BUT SECRETARY OF STATE VANCE DEFENDED THE
AMERICAN POSITION, AS BERNARD KALB REPORTS.

KALB: THE MORNING AFTER THE BREAKDOWN OF THE TALKS,
GROMYKO DIPLOMATICALLY ESCORTED VANCE TO THE AIRPORT.
THE TWO MEN WILL RESUME THEIR NEGOTIATIONS IN GENEVA IN
MAY, AND THE SECRETARY WAS CLEARLY TRYING TO LIMIT THE
IMPACT ON DETENTE OF THE U.S.-SOVIET FAILURE TO REACH A
NEW AGREEMENT ON CONTROLLING NUCLEAR WEAPONS.

-- VANCE: "HOPEFULLY, IN THE FUTURE WE WILL BE
-- ABLE TO FIND A WAY TO MOVE FORWARD AND
-- REACH AGREEMENT IN THIS MOST VITAL AND
-- IMPORTANT AREA."

KALB: VANCE THEN DEPARTED FOR BONN ON A SWING THROUGH
WEST EUROPEAN CAPITALS TO BRIEF AMERICAN ALLIES ON THE
MOSCOW STALEMATE. NO HINT AT THAT TIME THAT GROMYKO WOULD
CALL A SUDDEN NEWS CONFERENCE, DESCRIBED AS THE FIRST HE'S
EVER GIVEN TO WESTERN CORRESPONDENTS IN MOSCOW. GROMYKO,
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 09 STATE 071631 TOSEC 030189

IN A VERY FORCEFUL STATEMENT, ACCUSED THE U.S. OF OFFERING

PROPOSALS THAT WOULD GIVE ONE-SIDED ADVANTAGES TO THE U.S. AT ONE POINT HE CHARGED THAT THE U.S. WAS USING QUESTIONABLE, IF NOT CHEAP, METHODS. BUT DESPITE HIS TOUGH TALK, HE SAID HE WAS HOPEFUL FOR AN ARMS AGREEMENT WITH THE U.S. IN THE NEAR FUTURE, ADDING: WE MUST DO EVERYTHING TO CONTROL WEAPONS. EVEN BEFORE THE GROMYKO CONFERENCE, VANCE HAD ARRIVED IN THE WEST GERMAN CAPITAL, THE SECRETARY PROVIDING CHANCELLOR HELMUT SCHMIDT WITH AN EYEWITNESS ACCOUNT OF THE MOSCOW NEGOTIATIONS. VANCE, AT A NEWS CONFERENCE, DEFENDED THE U.S. PROPOSALS: (SAME QUOTE AS NBC ABOVE)

VANCE THEN FLEW TO LONDON WHERE HE PROCEEDED TO 10 DOWNING STREET TO BRIEF PRIME MINISTER CALLAGHAN. LATER VANCE WAS INTERCEPTED BY A REPORTER FOR A COMMENT ON THE GROMYKO STATEMENT.

-- VANCE: "YES, I THINK IT IS A VERY FAIR AGREE-
-- MENT; IT IS NOT A ONE-SIDED AGREEMENT, AND
-- I THINK THAT IF ONE STUDIES IT ONE CAN
-- SEE THAT IT IS A BALANCED AND FAIR AGREE-
-- MENT."

KALB: U.S. OFFICIALS ARE NOW TRYING TO OFFSET INTERNATIONAL HEADLINE OF STRAINED U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS -- ONE OFFICIAL, FOR EXAMPLE, TELLING REPORTERS THAT SOVIET LEADER BREZHNEV, EVEN AS HE WAS REJECTING THE U.S. ARMS PROPOSALS, WAS, AT THE SAME TIME, QUOTE, AFFABLE. CHRISTOPHER

UNCLASSIFIED

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 22-Sep-1999 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TOSEC, PRESS SUMMARIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 01-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE071631
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: S/PRS: JTRATTNER:LM
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Expiration:
Film Number: D770111-0570
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t197704103/baaaevpa.tel
Line Count: 357
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Message ID: d600b49b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN PRS
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 7
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2668052
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TRAVELING PRESS SUMMARY, THURSDAY EVENING, 3/31
TAGS: SOPN, OVIP, US, (VANCE, CYRUS R)
To: SECRETARY
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/d600b49b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009